

From Emerald Starr <emeraldstarr@gmail.com>

Sent Friday, October 8, 2010 1:33 pm



To Management Plan Review Coordinator Whale Sanctuary <hihwmanagementplan@noaa.gov>

Subject Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary comments

Dear Park Management Plan Coordinator,

Whales and dolphins are known to be an intelligent species, and have a very important place on the ecological life chain of the worlds oceans and seas. These ancient mammals have been an inspiration for great literature, provided healing to people with mental illnesses and given hope to people with life threatening diseases. They deserve to be protected from harm caused by humans. Please do everything in your power to protect these magnificent and important beings.

The following are my concerns and comments regarding the sanctuary in Hawaii:

1. VESSEL STRIKES: Institute laws to protect whales from strikes, with a speed limit of 13 knots during whale season and strict enforcement and penalties for any vessel breaking the speed limit or hitting whales.
2. SONAR & ACOUSTIC IMPACTS: Limit all sonar activity during whale season and comply with NOAA noise policies to prevent or mitigate acoustic impacts to whales
3. WATER POLLUTION: Fund water quality monitoring and strict laws to stop sewage dumping, pesticide and chemical runoff.
4. HABITAT DEGRADATION: Institute laws to protect reef habitat and to establish "No Take" Marine Conservation Areas on Kauai, such as Anini and Mahu'lepu.
5. NET ENTANGLEMENT: Create strong laws to have all nets identifiable and hold fishers' liable for derelict nets. Reward boaters who collect stray nets.
6. SANCTUARIES BOUNDARIES AND ENFORCEMENT: Expand the sanctuaries boundaries. Enforce existing laws (Marine Mammal Protection Act and Endangered Species Act).

Thank you for your efforts to protect the whales and insure they have a safe haven in Hawaiian waters.

Emerald Starr

Huelo Pt

Maui, Hawaii